



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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THE MUSEUM TO RING BELLS AND DISPLAY INTERACTIVE SCULPTURAL INSTALLATION IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL AIDS AWARENESS DAY, DECEMBER 1, 1994

Thursday, December 1, is International AIDS Awareness Day. Hundreds of museums, galleries, and arts organizations around the world will hold events and programs in response to the AIDS crisis, which has taken a heavy toll on the arts community.

On December 1, The Cleveland Museum of Art participates in AIDS Awareness Day with a day-long observance from 10 am to 5 pm. Volunteers stationed in eight gallery locations will simultaneously ring bells every six minutes, matching the pace of AIDS deaths in the U.S. (Last year, volunteers rang bells every ten minutes.) The bells are of many different designs, representing diverse cultures. Among them will be a *wrench-o-phone*--a set of chimes made from wrenches--designed by Robin VanLear, an instructor in the Education Department, for last year's AIDS Awareness Day.

This year, all visitors are encouraged to participate in the bell ringing. Joan Damankos, one of eight artists featured in *The 1994 Invitational: Artists of Northeast Ohio*, has created an interactive sculptural installation specifically for the Museum's observance of AIDS Awareness Day.

Damankos' site-specific *Memorial To An Average Day, 1994*, a two-part temporary structure in the North Lobby, consists of: a 4-by-8-foot shallow black box, affixed to the ceiling, from which bells of various sizes and designs dangle and, on the floor beneath it, a black box of equal size from which air currents flow across the bells, randomly moving them. The more than 200 bells dangling from *Memorial To An Average Day, 1994* symbolize the daily number of AIDS deaths in the U.S. Visitors are encouraged to add to Damankos' work either their own small bells or bells provided by the Museum. Morgue toe tags also will be available at the installation, on which visitors may write the names of friends and relatives who have died of AIDS. For additional information, call Marty Blade at 421-7340, ext. 491.

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